

Unlucky Wanderers Give Colleges A Fight

by ARGUS

Wycombe Wanderers 0 Loughborough Colleges 1

IF unsung outsiders Loughborough Colleges shake the pundits and reach the Wembley F.A. Amateur cup final, quite a few Wycombe Wanderers fans will feel personally involved after this exciting and quite untypical Loakes Park friendly.

This was better by far than an inconsequential League game with nothing at stake. Wycombe at least had the incentive of proving themselves better than the superbly fit and disciplined cup quarter finalists... and they very nearly did.

Colleges won many new fans for their highly skilled display in shocking conditions but they were self-acknowledged lucky winners.

A soft Alice-in-Blunderland goal ten minutes from time was the lone score but it was the Wanderers, pounding away persistently until the final 15 minutes, and showing the more progressive attacking ideas, who had looked the potential victors.

On a sunny day and on a dry ground this would have been a soccer classic. As it was good football flowed from both teams with the ball being pushed accurately through a churned up ocean of mud.

IMPRESSIVE FORM

The formidable Colleges defence just took the honours from a Wycombe rearguard which also struck impressive form. The well-drilled Loughborough squad had to do the majority of the work against a lively home attack spearheaded by Michael Rockell and Paul Bates.

Only the kitten-quick agility and reflexes of goalkeeper Bobby Wilson and some splendidly fair tackling kept Wycombe at bay.

The Wanderers rearguard, to a man, struck peak form and tamed the Loughborough attack long before the end. One silly lapse was all they made but that was enough. Outstanding figures were Dave Thomas, who gave a peerless display of cool intercepting

him into an absurd amount of trouble after the interval.

The second half featured a splendid duel between Wycombe attack and Colleges' defence with the latter winning narrowly on points. Two lovely headers by Cross, including one which glanced off the crossbar, were moral goals and the nearest Wycombe were to come to scoring.

As Wycombe's long spell of attacking began to tail away Loughborough scored their unassuming winner. The Wycombe defence got itself into a horrible flat-footed mix-up on the right and Bowron had merely to walk the ball into the net.

and thoughtful distribution, and Dennis Atkins, who subdued Welsh international Joe Raybould.

A cut and thrust first half fought out at a remarkably fast pace kept both goalkeepers busy. Nobody could accuse Wycombe's teenage substitute centre-forward Bob Cross of not trying—he tried so hard after the interval that he split his pants—but at this stage of his career he lacked the guile to beat Tom Goodwin, a fine upstanding pivot.

SPLENDID DUEL

With Cross well held the initiative rested with the Wycombe inside-forwards and both excelled in some spirited moves. But there were few signs of fire on the far wings. Len Worley flashed past three men in the first half to shoot narrowly wide but his old failing of over-elaboration led